

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
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FM AMCONSUL KADUNA  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4065

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0822

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI  
SUBJECT: NORTHERN POLITICAL MANEUVERING: "IT TAKES OLD HONEY  
TO MAKE MEDICINE"

REF: LAGOS 7725

1. DURING CALL ON ALHAJI ISA KAITA, OLD NORTHERN POLITICIAN AND REPORTEDLY ACTIVE MEMBER OF NEW "UNITY FRONT" (REFTEL), HE AND PO DISCUSSED EFFORTS OF NORTHERN POLITICAL LEADERS TO CREATE NEW PARTY. KAITA'S ANALYSIS OF DEVELOPING POLITICAL SITUATION SUGGESTED THAT OLD AND NEW POLITICIANS IN NORTH ARE ATTEMPTING TO WELD AN ALLIANCE FOR THE NEW CIVILIAN POLITICAL ERA.
2. KAITA SAID THAT NEW YOUNG POLITICIANS HAD GENERALLY IGNORED OLDER POLITICIANS IN MANEUVERING FOR CA SEATS AND OLD POLITICIANS HAD SIMPLY SAT BACK. AFTER ARRIVING AT CA THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE EAST AND THE WEST HAD ELECTED OLDER POLITICIANS WHO WERE CONSTANTLY INQUIRING ABOUT PRESENCE OF OLD NORTHERN POLITICAL LEADERS. AFTER 9 MONTHS IN THE CA, THE YOUNG POLITICIANS HAD COME TO THE OLD LEADERS SEEKING THEIR GUIDANCE AND  
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ASSISTANCE. HE NOTED THE APTNESS OF A HAUSA PROVERB: "IT TAKES OLD HONEY TO MAKE MEDICINE", I.E., ITHE "NEW BREED" COULD NOT HANDLE THE SITUATION. FYI. THIS CONVERSATION WAS SIMILAR TO A DISCUSSION I HAD IN APRIL AS SHARIA WALKOUT BEGAN WHEN KAITA COMMENTED THAT YOUNGER POLITICIANS DID NOT HAVE THE EXPERIENCE TO DEAL WITH THE OLDER SOUTHERNERS ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES SUCH AS SHARIA.

END FYI.

3. KAITA DESCRIBED CURRENT MEETINGS REPORTED IN PRESS AS THE NORTH'S PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW POLITICAL PARTY. HE SAID DEVELOPMENTS WERE FURTHER ALONG IN SOUTH, BUT THAT NORTH WOULD HAVE ITS PARTY A "FEW DAYS" AFTER BAN ON POLITICS IS LIFTED. HE ENVISIONED POLITICAL PARTY AS ONE AMALGAMATING OLD AND YOUNG POLITICIANS, UNQUESTIONINGLY UNDER LEADERSHIP OF OLD. HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES FROM THE NORTH BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT AN OLDER POLITICIAN WAS THE OBVIOUS LEADER.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON POSSIBLE ELECTORAL ALLIANCES, HE AGREED THAT THE EAST AND NORTH TOGETHER WERE THE OBVIOUS GROUP TO WIN THE NEXT ELECTION, NOTING THAT THE NORTH HAD ONLY RUN INTO TROUBLE WHEN IT ATTEMPTED TO ALLY WITH THE OLD ACTION GROUP. HE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT ON CONTACTS BETWEEN NORTHERN POLITICAL LEADERS AND THE EAST.

5. COMMENT: KAITA'S ATTITUDE WAS ONE OF SATISFACTION THAT THE OLDER NORTHERN POLITICIANS ARE BACK IN CONTROL. HE DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTIES MAINTAINING LOYALTY OF THE "NEW BREED", NOTING THAT WHEN THEY CALL THEY PAY THE TRADITIONAL OBEISANCE DUE HIM.  
END COMMENT.  
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6. FYI. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE NORTHERN CA MEMBER RECENTLY TOLD CONOFF THAT HE DOUCTED BAN ON POLITICS WOULD BE LIFTED JULY 29, SAYING THAT EVERYONE WAS PUSHING THIS; BUT THERE WAS NO DECISION. HE AND OTHER NORTHERN CA MEMBERS BELIEVE LATE AUGUST WOULD BE EARLIEST DATE AND IN FACT SMC MAY STICK TO OCTOBER 1 DATE. HIS FEELING WAS BASED IN PART ON ASSUMPTION THAT CA WOULD RECONVENE FOR THIRD READING OF CONSTITUTION. END FYI.  
LAKE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PDEV, NI  
**To:** LAGOS  
**Type:** TE  
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